Rs. 181.66 crores was assessed as the requirement of Orissa for drought relief. Rs. 176.37 crore was available with the State under the Calamity Relief Fund. The balance of Rs. 5.29 crore was released fromt the NCCF.

The corpus of CRF/NCCF is required to be used for meeting the expenditure for providing relief to the victims of cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm. The expenditure on development works is not covered under the scheme of CRF/NCCF.

Private companies in distribution of power

*399. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States where private companies have taken over the distribution of power;

(b) the performance of there companies in the power distribution in there states;

(c) whether Central Government have provided any assistance to those private companies for distribution of power; and

(d) if so, the details therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The States where private companies have taken over distribution of power are Orissa and the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) The distribution in Orissa was privatized in 1999 when the Transmission and Distribution (T&T) losses were very high, the billing and collection efficiency was very poor, the status of metering was not encouraging. Consequent on privatization of distribution, signs of improvement on these and other operational levels are visible.

In Delhi, distribution has been privatized in July 2002. It is too early to assess the impact of this privatization. However, Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) has informed that the power supply position in Delhi continues to show improvement after privatization of the distribution system.

(c) Assistance is being provided by the Central Government under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) for up

gration and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution systems in respect of projects cleared by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Government of Orissa.

(d) The assistance sanctioned and released under APDRP for NCT of Delhi and Orissa during 2002-03 are as follows:

(Figures in Crores Rs.)

States	Assistance sanctioned	Fund released as on 31.3.03
NCT of Delhi	473.23	105.51
Orissa	296.11	54.35

Supply of improved toolkits to rural artisans of Karnataka

MOO. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centrally sponsored scheme of supplying improved toolkits to rural artisans was under implementation in rural areas of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries under the above schemes during 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as an integrated self-employment programme since 1.4.1999 following the restructuring of erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied schemes. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) has been merged into the SGSY with effect from 1.4.1999. Therefore, SITRA is no more under implementation since 1.4.1999. However, under SGSY, rural artisans who form a significant segment of the rural society are being covered on priority.